

cc. Jennifer Carter

Dr. Charles Stanley

14 Jan 1899

Dear Charles,

This year is the ^{and numerous} ^{celebrates an} ^{to honor the work} ^{to perpetuate the work} bicentennial of the death of George Washington, and I thought I should have something in our collection which might ^{well} the Kenilworth Museum might later to display to the public, since it is related both to Washington and to an artist whose work is owned by the museum - namely from Antonio Hudson.

Just formerly we acquired at Sotheby's sale of the Stanley Paul Fox Collection of Important Americans, a ^{copy of a} mask of Antonio George Washington by Hudson, the original of which was created ^{from the life} ^{and} in October of 1786 at Mount Vernon. Although it is not an original or primary cast, the mask has an extremely fine provenance connected directly to the Washington family.

Our mask is a copy made ^{in Philadelphia} in 1850-55 from an original owned by Dr. Redman Coke, a well known professor and scientist and founding member of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He had received the mask as a gift from Major James Finley the nephew of George Washington. Major Finley's wife was Nellie Costen, grand daughter of Matthew Washington. Both James Finley and Nellie Costen ^{with George and Matthew Washington} had lived for many years at Mount Vernon, I am sure Nellie who was six years old when Hudson visited Mount Vernon actually witnessed Hudson and

served in Black Hawk Indian War of 1832 and the Florida War of 1836-7. He was later appointed Chief Quartermaster in the military occupation of Texas in 1846-7. ^{During} the Civil War he was ^{in 1861} appointed Brigadier-General and Major General ~~is~~ for his services.

Our mask entered the prominent Saxe Collection in 1891 unfortunately with a new acrylic ^{faux} bronze coating that significantly altered the ~~appearance of the~~ mask as it had once appeared when it was made in the 1850's.

After much deliberation Scott and I decided to remove the new finish and also to remove the ^{under study} plaster hair ~~also~~ added ^{when} ~~the~~ in the 1850's. This returned ^{our} the mask to the appearance of the Haddon original. It was a risky thing to do, but I do believe that the beautiful result justified our intervention.

Although our mask, as a home said, is not a first generation mask, its direct association with the Washington family (the original mask from which ours was made is still in the ^{possession of} Washington's descendants the Furber.) makes it a very precious piece of Washington memorabilia. ^{and it is by far the finest known} I would like to enhance its provenance by showing it at ^{and from} the Rimball of the Rimball is interested. I believe that it would definitely attract the curious and would certainly attract

the interests of the press, although I would prefer that the Loan would be an anonymous one.

Please let me know what you think. I have several ~~other~~ ^{institutions} in mind if you are not interested, but I would ^{gladly} prefer that it be shown in my home town first.

Thank you
Sincerely,
Gustav.

P.S. I also have a beautiful pair of ^{0.1425-30} stones which once belonged to King Charles I. I believe that they may have been a pair of betrothal stones which the Duke of Buckingham brought from Paris on his famous embassy ~~to~~ commemorated by the Dintells beautiful ^{and} study of Buckingham's on horseback.